

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Office Action dated October 23, 2006. Claims 1 - 3 and 5 - 25 are pending in this application. Claims 10 - 12 and 14 - 25 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1 - 3, 5 - 9 and 13 have been rejected on the basis of prior art.

These remarks follow the order of the outstanding Office Action beginning at page 2 thereof.

Claims 1 and 13 - 35 USC § 112

Claims 1 and 13 have been rejected under 35 USC § 112 on the grounds that the language "wherein the cutting edge of said cutter is disposed so as to face the bristles". The Examiner contends that a cutting edge is a one-dimensional object and has no face. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection on the grounds that the Examiner is using the definition of "face" as a noun and not as a verb. Attached hereto is a copy of page from Webster's International Dictionary that shows that even when the term "face" is used in a noun sense, it can describe "the edge of a cutting implement (as a knife)". Therefore, even as a noun, a face can be a cutting edge as claimed. However, Applicant has used the word in the portion of the claims objected to not as a noun, but as a verb. A verb is an action word. The dictionary

attached hereto at the bottom right hand column shows "face" when used as a verb. It may mean "to stand or sit opposite to" or "occupy a position with the face toward". These two definitions combined shows that the face of the knife can be towards something else. The Examiner should note that in the language of the claim, Applicant uses the words "to face". This is a phrase, and "face" cannot be read alone. "To face" is the infinitive form of the verb. For this reason, the claims are clearly not indefinite and Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1 and 13.

Claim Rejection - 35 USC § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 - 3 and 5 and 8 as being anticipated by Scott '348. Scott '348 shows a comb (50) with teeth (56) and teeth openings (58). At the base of the teeth is a plate (52) which moves back and forth in response to power actuation, and the plate cutting edges engage hair or extend beyond the teeth (56) only when the power is actuated to move the plate (52). This can best be seen in Figure 3.

'348 is for a comb, not a brush. Attached hereto is a dictionary definition of "comb" which shows that a comb is "an instrument consisting of a thin strip (as of plastic, metal or bone) with a row of teeth on one or both edges or sides that is used for adjusting, cleaning or confining the hair or for adornment". The Examiner, however, has characterized the

disclosure of '348 not as a comb, but as a brush. However, '348 calls the disclosure an invention "a comb" and the device shown in Scott '348 meets the dictionary definition of a comb, not that of a brush. Also attached hereto is a dictionary definition of the term "brush". Definition three defines a brush as "a hand-operated or power-driven tool or device composed of bristles set into a back or a handle or attached to a roller and designed or adapted for such uses as sweeping, scrubbing, painting, smoothing". This is different than a comb. Nowhere in the definition of brush does one find the word comb.

Applicant's claims 1 - 3, 5 and 8 are all directed to a brush. The Examiner has not met the claim limitation "brush". Still further, Applicant's claim recites "bristles". The '348 patent does not teach or suggest bristles. Instead, it teaches only the teeth of a comb. Attached hereto is a dictionary definition of bristle which is "something resembling a bristle as any of various animal structures similar to hair", "the stiff, short hair of a plant" or "the manufactured material used in the face of a hair brush".

The claim for a bristle simply is not anticipated by a reference which shows a comb tooth. For this reason, the rejection is traversed.

Still further with respect to claim 1, it is required that the cutter have a longitudinal axis provided with a cutting edge set parallel to and facing the longitudinal direction of the

bristles. In '348, the cutters on plate (52) do not face the comb teeth. Instead, they move next to the comb teeth. '348 teaches that the cutting blade (64) is adapted to slide with an opening (60) (column 3, lines 20 - 25). This is best seen in reference to Figure 6 which shows the opening (60). While the blade slides with (60) they are not parallel to and facing the longitudinal direction of the bristles and upright nearby said bristles. Instead, they are inside of the bristles (when not actuated), and travel towards other openings in the bristles when the blade is moved in a cutting direction.

Claims 1 - 3, 7 and 13 - Edwards '549

Edwards, like Scott, teaches a comb, not a brush. Edwards does not include bristles (13). Instead, Edwards teaches teeth (13) as described at column 2, line 30. Metallic teeth used in a comb in accordance with the dictionary definition are clearly not bristles which are defined differently by the dictionaries. For this reason, the rejections based upon Edwards are respectfully traversed.

Still further, the Examiner refers to "upright cutters (24)" of Edwards. However, Edwards does not teach that (24) are cutters. Instead, the cutting edge in Edward is the cutting edge (15) shown in Figure 2 and described at column 2, lines 40 - 45. The blades (24) are not for cutting, they are for pressing the hair against the cutting edges (15) of teeth (13). The principle

of operation of '549 is, therefore, different than Applicant.

'549 uses the moveable blades (24) to press the hair into cutting engagement with various teeth cutting edges (15) over which they pass. On the other hand, Applicant's device utilizes blades which are claimed to be parallel to and facing the longitudinal direction of the bristles and which are upright nearby the bristles. In '549, when the members (24) become upright, cutting no longer occurs because (24) no longer forces the air against the cutting edges (15).

Claim 13

At page 3 of the Office Action, line 4 down from the top, the Examiner has stated that, "as not understood, a cutting edge 'faces' a lone bristle". However, as pointed out from the dictionary, the word "face" the claims is used as a verb, and not as a structure. Still further, with respect to claim 13, the Examiner's comment is not understood because claim 13 does not even include the word "faces". Claim 13 depends from claim 1 which was not objected to under 35 USC § 112. This rejection is, therefore, not understood and respectfully traversed.

Claim 6 and 9

Claims 6 and 9 are read in combination with claim 1. Claim 6 and 9 require that the cutting edge parallel to and facing the longitudinal direction of the bristles. On the other hand, the

secondary reference Halaby '006 shows an entirely different structure, namely protective devices (13) which provide protection from cutting of blade (11). However, the protect devices (13) are on the upper part of a cutter which is parallel to a bristle. '006, in order to suggest Applicant's claim structure would somehow have to show a protective cover on the end, and not on the blade face as shown. For this reason the rejection of claims 6 and 9 is respectfully traversed.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, and early action in accordance thereof is requested. In the event there is any reason why the application cannot be allowed in this current condition, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the number listed below to resolve any problems by Interview or Examiner's Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,


L.J. Marhoefer

Reg. No. 21,091

Signing for

Ronald R. Snider

Reg. No. 24,962

Date: December 21, 2006

Snider & Associates

Ronald R. Snider

P.O. Box 27613

Washington, D.C. 20038-7613

Tel.: (202) 347-2600

Vb

(as in *Gallicism*) : a characteristic feature of British English
esp. as contrasted with American English (as *walstcoat* con-
trasted with *vest*, *navvy* with *day laborer*, to *register luggage*
with to *check baggage*, to *engage a servant* with to *hire a*
servant, *tyre with tire*, *kerb with curb*)
British \ˈbrɪt.ɪʃ, -ɪl, ɪʃ\ *adj.*, *usu cap B* [ME *Brittische*,
Bryttysche, fr OE *Bretlice*, *Bryttisc*, *Brittic*, of Celt origin;
akin to W Brython Briton] 1 : relating to, or characteristic
of the original inhabitants of Britain 2 : of, relating to,
or characteristic of Great Britain or its inhabitants b : of,
relating to, or characteristic of the British Commonwealth c : of,
relating to, or characteristic of England — **brit-ish-ness n**
— **-es usu cap B**
British \ˈbrɪt.ɪʃ, -ɪl, ɪʃ\ *n*, *cap B 1 a* : the Celtic language of the ancient
Britons b : BRITISH ENGLISH 2 *pl in constr a* : the people
native to or naturalized in Great Britain b : the primarily
British people of the British Commonwealth c : the people of
the British Commonwealth
British Alpine n, *usu cap B & sometimes cap A* : a goat of a
strain that is sometimes considered a separate breed devel-
oped in England by interbreeding Swiss Alpine goats with
native stock
british anti-lew-is-ite \ˈlɪə.sɪt\ *n*, *usu cap B* [*anti-* + *lew-*
istie] : DIMERCAPOLO
british american thread n, *usu cap B&A* : a screw thread
with an angle of 47½° and rounded crests and roots that is
used chiefly in Great Britain and other European countries
for very small screws
british co-lum-bi-a \ˌkɑ.ləm.bi.ə\ *adj.*, *usu cap B&C* [fr. *British*
Columbia, province of Canada] : of or from the province
of Columbia : of the kind or style prevalent in British
Columbia — **BRITISH COLUMBIAN**
british co-lum-bi-an \ˌkɑ.ləm.bi.ən\ *adj.*, *usu cap B&C 1* : of, relating
to, or characteristic of the province of British Columbia 2 : of,
relating to, or characteristic of the people of British Columbia
british columbian \ˈbrɪt.ɪʃ\ *n*, *cap B&C* : a native or inhabitant
of British Columbia
british dollar n, *usu cap B* : DOLLAR 2d
british english n, *cap B&E* : the native language of most
inhabitants of England; esp : a variety of English characteris-
tic of England and clearly distinguishable from those varieties
used in the U.S., Australia, and elsewhere — compare AMERICAN
ENGLISH, AUSTRAL ENGLISH, AUSTRALIAN ENGLISH
brit-ish-er \ˈbrɪd-ɪʃ-(l)ər-, -ɪl, ɪʃ-\ *n-s cap B* : BRITON 2
british guianese also british guianan \see GUANESE,
GUIANAN\ *n*, *usu cap B&G* [British Guiana, former name of
Guyana + E use of -an] : GWANESE
british guianese also british guianan \ˈbrɪt.ɪʃ\ *n*, *cap B&G*
: GWANESE
british gum n, *usu cap B* : DEXTRIN; esp : dextrin produced
by heating starch sometimes with small amounts of acid or
alkali and used as size for paper and textiles and as an adhesive
british honduran \see HONDURAN\ *adj.*, *usu cap B&H* [British
Honduras, country in Central America + E -an] 1 : of,
relating to, or characteristic of British Honduras 2 : of,
relating to, or characteristic of the people of British Honduras
british honduran \ˈbrɪt.ɪʃ\ *n*, *cap B&H* : a native or inhabitant
of British Honduras
british-ism \ˈbrɪt.ɪʃ.ɪzəm\ *n* : BRITICISM
2 a : the distinctive qualities of the people of the British
Commonwealth b : one of these qualities
brit-ish-ly adv, *usu cap B* : in a British way (a ~ calm bystander)
british mold n, *usu cap B* : a mold of the genus *Brettanomyces*
british oak n, *usu cap B* : ENGLISH OAK
**british thermal unit n, *usu cap B* : the quantity of heat
required to raise the temperature of one avoirdupois pound of
water one degree Fahrenheit at or near 39.2°F, its temperature
of maximum density, being equal to about 0.252 kilogram
calorie — abbr. *Btu*
british warm n, *usu cap B* : a short double-breasted overcoat
worn esp. by British army officers
brits \ˈbrɪt.ɪʃ\ *n*, *comb form*, *cap* [prob. fr. I. *Brito*]
1 : of or belonging to the Britons and (*Brito-Roman*) 2 : Brit-
ish and (*Brito-Japanese*) 3 : Britain (*Britocentric*)
brit-on \ˈbrɪt.ɪʃ ən -ɪtən or -ɪd-ən\ *n-s cap* [ME *Bretton*,
Byrtoun, fr. MF & L; MF *bretoun*, fr. I. *Briton*-, *Britio*, *Britton*-,
Britto, of Celt origin; akin to W Brylhon Briton] 1 : a member
of one of the peoples inhabiting Britain previous to the Anglo-
Saxon invasions, the majority being presumably Cymric
Celts intermixed with earlier non-Indo-European-speaking
peoples 2 : a native or subject of Great Britain; esp : ENGLISH-
MAN
brit's pl of brit
brits-ka or britz-ska \ˈbrɪt.skə-, -ɪtskə-\ *n-s* [G *britschka*,
britzka, fr. Pol *brzyzka*, perh. modif. of G *barsche*, *birutsche*
barouche — more at BAROUCHE] : a long open horse-drawn
carriage with a folding top over the rear seat and a front seat
facing the rear
britt var of brit
britt-ta-ny \ˈbrɪt.i.nē-, -ni\ or **britannia blue n** — *ES often cap*
Britannia [fr. *Brittany*, region of northwestern France] : a
moderate greenish blue that is bluer and paler than average
peacock and bluer and slightly paler than larkspur
brittany spaniel n, *usu cap B* : a rather tall active short-tailed
spaniel of a French breed having a smooth or slightly wavy
bringed on chest, forelegs and hind legs, which was developed by
interbreeding pointers with spaniels of the type known as
a competent bird dog with an action suggestive of a setter.
brittle \ˈbrɪd-əl, -l\ *adj* [ME *brītil*: akin to OE *brōtan*
to break, OHG *brōdi* trail, ON *brjōta* to break, Skt *bhrūna*
embryo] 1 a (1) : easily broken, cracked, or snapped : apt
to break or snap easily esp. under very slight bending or
deformation (~ clay) (~ glass) (as ~ as an eggshell) (2) of
a metal or alloy : having very low malleability or ductility
b : easily disrupted, overthrown, damaged, or disintegrated
FRAIL (a ~ promise) (~ honor — Shak.) (a ~ marriage)
c : requiring careful handling : DIFFICULT (a ~ personality)
d : sharp, abrupt, LAWFUL TENSE (the light ~ tones of an orchestra)
e : of xylophones ~ *Asia & the Americas* (the ~ staccato
of the drums — H.A. Sinclair) (could hardly understand what
was said to him, so ~ and sharp was the sound — Pearl Buck)
2 a : PERISHABLE, MORTAL b : TRANSITORY, EVANESCENT
3 : lacking warmth, depth, or generosity of spirit : COLD, CAL-
CULATING (she was harder, more ~, than Effie ever was — Rex
ingamells) (a ~ and selfish woman who calculates her ends
coldly and by sheer poise and self-possession usually gets her
way — Chad Walsh) (the ~, cynical, beautiful legends of
David — Gilbert Highet) — **britt-le-ly or britt-ly** -l̩(-l̩)ē,
-lē(-lē)-l̩\ *adv* — **britt-le-ness** -v̩-id-, -l̩(-l̩)-l̩\ *n* — *ES*
often cap Brittleness : the quality of being brittle : the point of
fragmentation; adding nut to the sugar in the singing in the
little bones *n-pl but sing or pl in const* : FRAGILITAS OSSUM
little bush \ˌlɪ.tl̩.bʊʃ\ *n* : a desert plant of the genus *Eucella*
family Compositae) of the southwestern U.S. and adjacent
Mexico having brittle stems, small crowded leaves, and yellow
flowers and containing a principle toxic to other plants
britt fern n = FRAGILE FERN
brittish maid \ˈbrɪt.ɪʃ maɪd\ *n* : a tropical American fern (*Adiantum***

brummagem

: PHONY, SHAM (her extraordinary beauty, caustic wit, and ~
royalty—G.H. Genszner)
brummagem \ˈbrʊm.ə.ɡəm/ n-s: something cheap or inferior: TINSEL,
COUNTERFEIT
brum-my \ˈbrʊm.i/ adj [by shortening & alter.] chiefly Brit
: BRUMMAGE
bru-mous \ˈbrʊm.əs/ adj [F *brumeux*; fr. *brume* fog—more at
BRUME]: FOGGY, MISTY (the ~ October glooming—John
Galsworthy)
brum-stone \ˈbrʊm.stən, -stɒn-/ dial Brit var of BRIM-
STONE
brunch \ˈbrʌn.tʃ/ n-es [breakfast + lunch]: a meal served usu.
in the late morning: a late breakfast, an early lunch, or a
combination of the two
brunch coat n: a woman's short housecoat or wraparound
dress
brun do-ré \ˈbrʊn.də.ˈrɛ, -dɔː/, n, pl **brun do-rés** or **bruns**
dorés \ˈbrʊn.də.ˈrɛ, -dɔː/ [F, lit., golden brown]: OLIVE WOOD
brun \ˈbrʊn/ n-s [F—more at BRUNET]: BRUNET
bru-nel-lia \ˈbrʊn.ɪˈleɪ.ə, -li.ə/ n, cap [NL, fr. G. Brunelli, 18th
cent. Ital. botanist + NL -ia]: a small genus (coextensive with
the family Brunelliaceae of the order Ranales) of tropical
American trees having unisexual panicle apetalous flowers
and follicular fruits
bru-net or **bru-nette** \ˈbrʊn.ɪt, usu -ed + V/ adj [F *brunet*,
masc. & *brunette*, fem., brownish, fr. OF fr. *brun* brown, fr.
ML *brunus*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *brin* brown—more
at BROWN]: of or marked by dark or relatively dark pigmentation
of hair and eyes: BROWN, BLACK b of skin: BROWN, OLIVE
brunet or **brunette** \ˈbrʊn.ɪt, usu -ed + V/ adj [F *brunet*, fem.,
fr. *brunet*, *brunette*, adj.]: a person with brunet hair or skin or
both
brun-fel-sia \ˈbrʊn.fɛl.ˈzi.ə/ n, cap [NL, fr. Otto Brunfels 1534
Ger. botanist + NL -ia]: a genus of tropical American shrubs
(family Solanaceae) that have alternate entire leaves and a
fleshy fruit like a berry and that are commonly grown in green-
houses for their flowers
brung *subst. past of BRING*
bru-ni-zem \ˈbrʊn.ɪ.ˈzɛm/ n-s [origin unknown]: a soil of the
prairies developed from loess and occurring extensively in
Iowa
brun-nis-ous \ˈbrʊn.ɪ.ˈsɪ.əs/ or **brun-nis-cent** \ˈbrʊn.ɪ.ˈsɛnt/ adj
[irreg. fr. ML *brunus* brown + E -ous or -escent—more at
BRUNET]: dark brown—used chiefly scientifically
brun-ner's gland \ˈbrʊn.ɪ.ˈnɛr/ n, usu cap B [after Johann C.
Brunner 1727 Swiss anatomist]: any of certain compound
racemose glands in the submucous layer of the duodenum
secreting alkaline mucus and a potent proteolytic enzyme
brun-nich-la \ˈbrʊn.ɪˈniː.ə/ n, cap [NL, fr. M.T. Brunnich
1782 Dan. naturalist + NL -ia]: a small genus of herbaceous
vines (family Polygonaceae) having climbing tendrils, broad
leaves, and inconspicuous racemose flowers—see BUCKWHEAT
VINE
brun-nich's murre also **brunnich's guillemot** \ˈbrʊn.ɪˈniː.əs/ n,
usu cap B [after M.T. Brunnich]: THICK-BILLED MURRE
brunn race \ˈbrʊn.ɪ.ˈrɛs/, n, usu cap B [fr. Brunn (now
Brno), Czechoslovakia]: a Upper Paleolithic people related
to the Cro-Magnons but differing in having shorter stature,
narrower face and head, and heavier brow ridges, orig. based
on skeletal material found associated with Solotherian artifacts
at Brno and Predmost, Czechoslovakia, and subsequently recog-
nized in fossil finds in other parts of Europe, in No. Africa,
and in western Asia and as a component in modern man
brunn's membrane \ˈbrʊn.ɪ.ˈs/ n, usu cap B [after Albert von
Brunn 1895 Ger. anatomist]: the part of the nasal mucous
membrane that serves as an organ of smell
bru-no man \ˈbrʊn.ɪ.ˈnɔː/ n [Bruno (shovel), a hand shovel
used to move loose ore]: a worker who uses a hand shovel to
move loose ore (as to an ore car)
bru-no-nia \ˈbrʊn.ɪ.ˈni.ə/ n, cap [NL, irreg. fr. Robert
Brown 1858 Scot. botanist + NL -ia]: a genus (coextensive
with the family Brunoniaceae of the order Campanulales) of
Australian herbs with radical leaves and a long-stalked globu-
lar head of showy flowers
brunswick \ˈbrʊn.ɪˈswɪk/ wɪk, -wɛk/ adj, usu cap [fr. Brunswick
(Braunschweig), Germany]: of or from the city of Brunswick,
Germany: of the kind or style prevalent in Brunswick
brunswick black n, often cap 1st B [trans. of G. Braunschweiger
schwarz]: a black varnish usu. similar in composition to black
japan
brunswick blue n, often cap 1st B [trans. of G. Braunschweiger
blau] 1: a pigment consisting of a mixture of an iron blue
with a large amount of barium sulfate 2: a PERSIAN BLUE 2
brunswick green n, often cap B [trans. of G. Braunschweiger
grün] 1: a green pigment consisting of a copper salt (as a
basic copper chloride or a basic copper carbonate)—called
also **old Brunswick green** b: CHROME GREEN 1b 2: any of
three greens: a: DEEP BRUNSWICK GREEN b: MIDDLE
BRUNSWICK GREEN c: LIGHT BRUNSWICK GREEN
brunswick stew n, often cap B [fr. Brunswick county, Va.,
where it originated] 1: a hunter's stew made with squirrel
or rabbit and onion 2: a stew of two or more meats with vege-
tables (as game and chicken with corn, okra, and tomatoes)
or in area (a mobile striking force, always on the ready, to
fight *brush-fire* wars—Newsweek)
brush \ˈbrʌʃ/ n-s [ME] 1 obs a: a forerunner of the on the
sudden or violent assault (the garrison withstood the ~ on the
castle) b: a sudden outbreak or effort 2: the main force; the
shock, or stress, of the impact, strain, or violence calling for
greatest resistance (employees in the textile and metal trades
exposed to the full ~ of foreign competition—J.A. Hobson)
(the ~ of the struggle with the German army fell upon the
Russians—Walter Lippmann) SYN see IMPACT
brunt \ˈbrʌnt, -rɒnt/ dial Brit past of BURN
brush \ˈbrʌʃ/ n-s often attrib [ME *brusch*, fr. MF *broce*, fr.
OF, perh. of Celt origin; akin to OIr *broech* heather
—more at BRIER] 1: BRUSH-
WOOD 2 a: scrub vegeta-
tion b: land covered with
scrub vegetation 3: BRUSH-
LAND—often used with the
(helped work cattle in the
Florida ~—F.B. Gipson)
3 chiefly Austral: a dense
growth of forest and under-
growth
brush \ˈbrʌʃ/ v-ED/-ING/-ES
1: to clear (land) of brush
and undergrowth (the
back forty) 2: to use cut-
off branches as supports
for (vines and plants) (peas
should be ~ed)
brush \ˈbrʌʃ/ n-s [ME *brusche*, fr. MF *broisse*, fr. OF *broce*
brushwood] 1 a: a hand-operated or power-driven tool or
device composed of bristles set into a back or a handle or
attached to a roller and designed or adapted for such uses as
sweeping, scrubbing, painting, and smoothing (a floor ~)
(a wire ~) b: one of a pair of long slender devices of this kind
with flexible wire bristles used for making soft rhythmic
hissing sounds on a cymbal or snare drum esp. in a dance band
(a ~) c: a heavily haired bushy tail (as that of a fox or
squirrel or of certain dogs or cats) (the fox had a handsome
red ~) d: (1) an herb (*Lepachys columbifera*) of the western
himalayas (2) a small tree of the same family

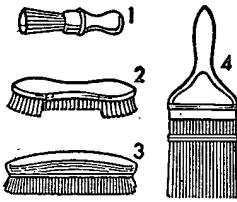
brush \ˈbrʌʃ/ v-ED/-ING/-ES [ME *brusche*, fr. *brusche*, n.] v
1 a: to apply a brush to or use a brush on (she was ~ing her
hair) (take the bread from the oven and ~ the loaves with
butter) b: to apply with a brush (the paint must be ~ed
carefully onto the porous surface) 2 a: to remove with a
brush or by an act similar to brushing (~ the dust from your
shoes) (he ~ed the ash from his cigarette—Nevil Shute)
b: to push or force esp. in the course of physical motion (two
men ~ed their way through the crowd) (~ obstacles aside)
c: to dispose of in an offhand way (dismiss or reject sum-
marily or perfunctorily) (~ aside) d: to use with a brush (im-
patiently ~ed aside the thought—Kathleen Freeman) (~ed
thanks away—Thomas Wood 1950) 3 a: to pass lightly
over or across: touch gently against in passing (my left hand
~ed the wall and found the doorknob—Hartley Howard)
b: AFFECT, TOUCH (the spirit of compromise which responsi-
bility brings has not ~ed him—Time) 4: to beat (fibers)
lightly to cause fraying or roughening rather than cutting in
papermaking 5 dial chiefly Eng: TRIM, CLIP (~ing the shrub-
bery) ~ v 1: to make the contact or motion or perform the
action of brushing something (other stewards and messmen
were scouring, scrubbing ~ing, mopping—*Nations Business*)
2 a: to interfere slightly so as to produce abrasion
brush \ˈbrʌʃ/ adj [brush]: resembling a brush esp. in being
bristly or cut relatively short and of even length (a ~ haircut)
(a ~ mustache)
brush \ˈbrʌʃ/ v-ED/-ING/-ES [ME *bruschen* to rush, drive (in-
fluenced in meaning by 1 & ~ brush), fr. MF *brosser* to dash
through underbrush, fr. *broce*, *broisse*, *broisse* underbrush]
v: to move so lightly or deftly as to be scarcely perceptible
move so as to graze, skim over, or sweep something (~ past
people quickly without hitting them carelessly with your
umbrella—Agnes M. Miall) ~ v: to force (a horse) to top
speed over a short distance
brush \ˈbrʌʃ/ n-s [ME *brusche* rush, hostile collision (influenced
in meaning by 1 & ~ brush), fr. *bruschen* to rush, drive] 1: a
brief or fleeting encounter; usu: one that involves an element
of risk or contention (he had several ~es with the law) (a ~
with enemy troops) 2: a usu. short often impromptu race
(the two horses came side by side and their riders decided to
have a ~)
brush-a-bili-ty \ˈbrʌʃ.əˈbɪl.ə-ti/ n-s: the behavior charac-
teristic of a liquid (as paint) when applied by brush
brush apple n [brush]: BLACK APPLE
brush arbor n [brush] South & Midland: an arbor made of
brushwood esp. used as a place for a camp meeting
brush block \ˈbrʌʃ.blɒk/ n: a football maneuver in which an
offensive player makes light contact with an opponent and
continues downfield for secondary blocking
brush bloodwood n [brush]: BLOODWOOD a(2)
brush border n [brush]: a striated border on the cells forming
the membrane proper in certain epithelial membranes (as in
that of the proximal convoluted tubule of the kidney) that is
usu. regarded as associated with absorptive phenomena
brush box n [brush]: an Australian tree (*Tristania conferta*)
that has evergreen foliage and is cultivated for shade—called
also *Brisbane box*
brush broom n [brush]: a broom (ing *Phaps elegans*)
that is brown-brown above and largely bluish gray below
brush broom n [brush] South & Midland: a broom made of
small twiggy branches or corn husks tied together and used for
outdoor sweeping (the paths swept with a brush broom—Ellen
Glasgow)
brush burn n: an injury of the skin due to intense friction
(there were also brush burns showing that she had been
dragged—M.G. Bishop)
brush cherry n [brush] 1: an Australian timber tree (*Eugenia
myrtifolia*)—called also *native myrtle* 2: the edible fruit of
the brush cherry—called also *rose apple* 3: an Australian
shrub (*Trochopappa laurina*)
brush coating n [brush]: a paper-coating process in which
the wet coating mixture is smoothed on the surface by means
of brushes
brush country n: an extensive area of land on which the
characteristic plant forms are low shrubby growths—compare
CHAPARRAL, THicket
brush cut n [brush]: a very short even haircut often in a flat
plane on top so that the hair stands out and suggests a water
brush damper n [brush]: a machine for spattering water
onto paper by means of rotary brushes
brush discharge n [brush]: a faintly luminous relatively slow
electric discharge having no spark
brushed \ˈbrʌʃt/ adj [brush + -ed]: BRUSHY
brushed \ˈbrʌʃt/ adj [past part. of brush] of a woven or
knitted fabric: finished with a nap (a ~ rayon bed jacket)
brush-er or **brush-er's** n-s [brush + -er]: one that brushes
by hand or by machine esp. as a vocation
brusher \ˈbrʌʃ.ər/ n-s [brush + -er] 1: a worker who cuts and
burns small trees and brush 2: LEMBER 3: WHITE BISKOP
brushes pl of BRUSH, pres 3rd sing of BRUSH
brush fire n [brush]: a fire involving scrub trees, brush, or
other growth that is heavier than grass but not of full tree size
brush-fire \ˈbrʌʃ.ˈfaɪər/ n [brush + -fire] a: a fire of full tree size
or in area (a mobile striking force, always on the ready, to
fight *brush-fire* wars—Newsweek)
brush harrow n [brush]: a crude light harrow made of short
tough tree branches (as hawthorn) fastened to one side of a
pole and used chiefly to cover seeds
brush hook n [brush]: BUSH HOOK
brushier comparative of BRUSHY
brushiest superlative of BRUSHY
brushing n-s [fr. gerund of brush]: a finishing process for
fabrics used to produce a thick nap
brushings n pl [fr. gerund of brush]: material removed and
collected by brushing
brush-ite \ˈbrʌʃ.ɪt/ n-s [George J. Brush 1912 Am.
mineralogist + E -ite]: a nearly colorless mineral $\text{CaHPO}_4 \cdot$
 $2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ consisting of calcium hydrogen phosphate in slender
crystals or massive
brush kangaroo n [brush]: a large wallaby
brushland \ˈbrʌʃ.lənd/ n [brush + land]: an area characterized by
scrub growth
brush-less \ˈbrʌʃ.ləs/ adj [brush + -less] 1: lacking a
brush 2: designed for use without a brush (~ shaving cream)
brush-man \ˈbrʌʃ.mən/ n, pl **brushmen** [brush + man] 1: one
who uses a brush esp. as a vocation: as a ~ a worker who
assists in cleaning the outside of a building by brushing a pre-
viously scoured surface with a chemical cleaner b: one who
applies coats of finish with a brush c: a worker who roughens
new concrete pavement with a stiff brush—called also *broom
man* 2: a painter esp. skilled in brushwork
brushman \ˈbrʌʃ.mən/ n, pl **brushmen** [brush + man]: one who
cuts and burns brush
brush mouse n [brush]: a common white-footed mouse
(*Peromyscus boylii*) of the western U.S.
brush-off \ˈbrʌʃ.ɒf/ n-s [brush off, v.] 1: a quietly curt or
disdainful dismissal (she gave him the brush-off) 2: an
offensive maneuver used by basketball and lacrosse players to
get rid of an opponent by running him into a teammate
brush out n [brush]: an iron ore in stalactitic forms re-
sembling a brush
brushout \ˈbrʌʃ.aʊt/ n [brush out, v.]: a sample application of
paint usu. for testing
brush-pen \ˈbrʌʃ.pən/ n [brush]: a pen with a fibrous point
brush-penning \ˈbrʌʃ.pən.ɪŋ/ n-s [brush + penning] West & cowboy

brutality

brush-treat \ˈbrʌʃ.treɪt/ v: to apply preservatives to with a brush
(brush-treat the floorboards)
brush turkey n [brush]: MEGAPODE; esp: a large megapode
(*Alectura lathami*) of the wooded regions of eastern Australia
brush turpentine n [brush]: either of two Australian trees
(*Rhodamia tribriva* and *Syncarpia leptopetala*) of the family
Myrtaceae used as a source of timber
brush up v 1: to polish up or improve by eliminating small
imperfections (spent their off time in brushing up their art)
2: to refresh one's memory of: renew one's skill in or knowl-
edge of (brush up your Shakespeare) (brushed up his piano
technique) ~ v: to refresh one's memory: renew one's skill
or knowledge—used with on (brushing up on his golf) (brush-
ing up on their understanding of the accepted maritime law—
F.L. Paxson) (brush up on the significant dates before the
history exam)
brushup \ˈbrʌʃ.ʌp/ n-s [brush up] 1 a: review or practice with
the intent of refreshing the memory or polishing up a skill (the
orchestra needed a good deal of ~ before the performance)
(a special ~ course) (a little instructive ~ on English history—
Mollie Panter-Downes) b: a period of such review or prac-
tice (the play had a two-week ~ before opening in New York)
2: a fixing up of something that has begun to show signs of
age or wear or that shows slight imperfections (the paint
~ had been done some ~ work in the halls—E.D. Rader)
brush wheel n [brush] 1: a wheel used formerly to turn
another wheel by the friction of bristles fixed in the outer rim
2: a circular revolving brush used for polishing
brush wolf n [brush]: COYOTE
brushwood \ˈbrʌʃ.wʊd/ n [brush + wood] 1: the wood of small
branches esp. when cut or broken 2: a thicket composed of
shrubs and small trees
brushwork \ˈbrʌʃ.wɜːk/ n [brush + work] 1: work done with a
brush (as in painting) 2: the distinctive and characteristic
use of the tools and equipment of an art (as of a brush by a
painter or words by a writer): TECHNIQUE
brushy \ˈbrʌʃ.i/ adj [brush + -y]: resembling
a brush; also: SHAGGY, ROUGH
brushy \ˈbrʌʃ.i/ adj [brush + -y]: covered with or
abounding in brush or brushwood
brusque also **brusk** \ˈbrʌsk/ n-s [brusk sometimes -rusk or -ru-
-ER/-EST fr. *brusco*, fr. It. *brusco*, fr. ML *brusculus* butcher's
broom, perh. blend of L *ruvus* broom and L *brutus*
heathiness (see BRUTE) at BRIER]: markedly short and abrupt
tending to be brisk, sharp, and often somewhat harsh or lacking
gentleness SYN see BLUFF
brusque-ly also **brusk-ly** adv: in a brusque manner
brusque-ness n-s: the quality or state of being brusque
brus-que-rie \ˈbrʌsk.ri/ n-s [brus- or -brus- n-s [fr.
fr. *brusque* + -erie -y]: the quality or state of being brusque
brus-sels \ˈbrʌs.əl/ n, usu cap [fr. Brussels, Belgium]: a
city or from Brussels, the capital of Belgium: of the kind or style
prevalent in Brussels
brussels brown n, often cap 1st B: NEW BRONZE
brussels carpet n, usu cap B 1: a carpet made of variously
colored wool yarns first fixed in a foundation web of strong
linen thread and then drawn up in loops to form the pattern
—called also *body Brussels*; see WILTON 2: an inexpensive
substitute for Brussels carpet that is made of a single-colored
yarn varied in color by dyeing at intervals or of undyed yarn
with a printed pattern—called also *tapestry Brussels*
brussels classification n, usu cap B: UNIVERSAL DECIMAL
CLASSIFICATION
brussels griffin n, usu cap B & sometimes cap G: a shaggy
reddish brown wire-haired griffin (sense 1)
brussels lace n, usu cap B 1: any of various fine needlepoint
or bobbin lace with a variety of floral designs made orig. in or near
Brussels 2: a machine-made net of hexagonal mesh
brussels sprout n, often cap B 1: any of the edible small green
heads resembling diminutive cabbages
and borne in the lower axils of the
stem of a plant (*Brassica oleracea gem-
mifera*) closely related to the cabbage
and cauliflower 2: the plant that bears
Brussels sprouts—usu. used in pl.
brust \ˈbrʊst, -rɒst/ dial Brit var of
BURST
brus-tel \ˈbrʊs.təl/ n-s [dial var of BRISTLE]
brut \ˈbrʊt/ n-s [MW, fr. MF *brut*,
legendary settler of Britain, fr. ML
brutus]: any of several medieval chron-
icles of Britain tracing the history and
legend of the country from the exploits of
mythical Brutus, descendant of Aeneas
brut \ˈbrʊt/ adj [F, lit., rough—more
at BRUTE] of champagne: very dry: usu.
containing less than 1.5 percent sugar
by volume; drier than extra sec
bru-ta \ˈbrʊd.ə/ n pl, cap [NL, fr. L. neut. pl. of *brutus*
heavy—more at BRUTE] in former classifications: an order
of mammals comprising the edentates, elephants, and
walrus
bruta \ˈbrʊt.ə/ [NL, fr. L.] SYN of EDENTATA
bruta-ge \ˈbrʊd.ə.ʒi/ n-s [F, fr. *brut* rough + -age
—more at BRUTE]: BRUTING
bru-tal \ˈbrʊd.əl, -u(ɪ).əl/ adj, sometimes -ER/-EST [ME, fr. MF
or ML; MF, fr. ML *brutalis*, fr. *brutus* brute, animal + L -al
-al—more at BRUTE] 1 archaic: of, belonging to, or typical
of beasts or animals as distinguished from man 2: ANIMAL (the
Serpent... to me so friendly grown above the rest of a kind—
John Milton) 2: befitting or worthy of a brute: as a ~ stem-
ming from or based on crude animal instincts: grossly ruthless
(a ~ attack) 3: devoid of mercy or compassion: cruel and
cold-blooded (blunt and occasionally ~, but ~ never negli-
ging and peevish—Clematis Brooks) c: harsh and severe
; unpleasant to a degree that is nearly unbearable (another
summer of ~ heat) (two ~ winters in a row) d: unpleasantly
accurate and incisive: undeniable but harsh (the ~ truth)
(the ~ facts must be faced and action taken)
SYN BRUTISH, BESTIAL, FERAL, BEASTLY, BRUTE: BRUTAL stresses
sensuality, coarse cruelty, or crude grossness, always without
the alleviation of normal human moderation, reticence, sym-
pathy, mercy, or consideration of others (Constance Kent was
her little brother's throat in a thoroughly brutal manner—W.H.
Wright) (brutal Ode and St. Dunstan force their rude way
into the quiet room, and hurl coarse insults at the sweet-faced
queen—J.K. Jerome) BRUTISH stresses either gross sensuality
completely unchecked or utter animal stupidity unenlightened
by even faint human intelligence (in the mines and factories
an indiscriminate sexual intercourse of the most brutal kind
was the only relief from the tedium and drudgery of the day—
Lewis Mumford) (it requires wisdom to liberate ourselves
from natural brutish stupidity and enslaving passions—M.R.
Cohen) BESTIAL usu. indicates either a complete lack of human
intelligence and refinement or an utter lustful depravity (they
were much impressed with the size and bestial ferocity of the
niggers whom they had now learned to call "Paythans"
—Rudyard Kipling) (he is a thief, a murderer, a defiler, a
bestial, lecherous dog—Rafael Sabatini) FERAL stresses wild
and fury and ferocity like a wild beast's (her wrath, savagery,
feral, utterly possessed her. She was like a wild animal, con-
sidered and conscious of defeat—W.H. Wright) BEASTLY may
imply bestial indelicacy, cruelty, or sensuality (some women
coarse and low and vulgar, some beastly creature in whom all



Brussels sprouts



brushes: 1 shaving brush, 2 scrubbing brush, 3 clothes brush, 4 paintbrush

cleansing fibers (as of wool, flax, or hair); also: the machine of which it is the basic part (2); the serrated vibratory device used to strip fiber from the doffer of a carding machine (3); a reed of a loom and esp. of a hand loom. **c**: a toothed instrument for currying hairy animals or cleansing and smoothing their coats: **CURRYCOMB** **d**: the collector of an electrostatic machine. **e** (1): a toothed instrument used to form patterns on a painted surface that typically resemble grained wood or marbled paper (2): a pattern so formed. **f**: a tool having teeth similar to those on a saw and used in finishing stone. **g**: the fleshy crest or caruncle on the head of the domestic fowl and certain other gallinaceous birds; esp. developed in the male — see **PEA COMB**, **RESE COMB**, **SINGLE COMB**, **STRAWBERRY COMB**. **h**: something resembling; suggesting the comb of a cock: **a**: the crest of a helmet; **esp**: the upright blade on a morion. **b**: the crest or ridge of a mountain or hill. **c**: the ridge of a roof. **d**: a ridge or crest of hair. **e**: the upper edge of the buttock of a shoulder firearm against which the firer's cheek rests during firing. **f**: the curling crest of a wave. **g**: a hook on which bacon slabs are hung for smoking. **h**: a structure resembling a comb (sense 1a): **a**: the pecten of a scorpion. **b**: the pecten of a bird's eye. **c**: one of the ciliated swimming plates of a ctenophore. **d**: **STRIGIL**. **e**: **CREMIDUM**. **f**: **5**: **HONEYCOMB**; also: one of the somewhat similar masses of cells built by social wasps. **h**: an aggregate of crystals resembling a honeycomb that have grown outward from the walls of a vein or cavity so that their closely set points or ends project. **comb** **v** **vb** **combed** **-md** **combed** **\combing** **-min** **combs** **-mz** **[ME comben, fr. comb, n.]** **vi** **1**: to draw a comb through: disentangle with or as if with a comb: **a**: to lay straight: **DRESS**, **ARRANGE**. **2**: to cleanse, disentangle, and collect together (animal or vegetable fibers) by the use of a comb: **the short staple being combed away** — compare **CARD**. **3**: to dress or finish (stoneware with a comb). **2**: **THRASH**, **BEAT**. **3**: **RAKE** (the grass). **b**: to afflict or assault as if by raking: **a** (1): to pass over with violent force (the city was *combed* by rain and high winds). (2): **FLATTEN**, **ERODE** (huge waves *combed* down the dunes). (3): to shell systematically (the enemy's position with our guns). **4**: **a**: to remove or eliminate with or as if with a comb (out snarls) (out head lice) (subversives out of the organization). **b**: to treat with or as if with a comb in order to remove anything undesirable — **usu** used with **out** (out a staff in search of dishonest persons). **5**: **SEPARATE**, **SORT** (the tangle of the right elements). **6**: to search or examine systematically and thoroughly omitting or ignoring no part or detail (all the evidence) (the whole trial record for reasons for appeal). **7**: the woodland for traces of the lost children (police *combed* the city for the killer). **8**: to seek out and collect from — **used esp.** of one that gathers flotsam cast up by the sea (added to his income by *combing* the little beach beyond the point). **9**: to use in the manner of a comb (his fingers through his long red beard). **vi** **1**: of a wave or its crest: to roll over: break into foam. **2**: to flow or come over like a combing wave. **syn** see **SEEK**.

comb **\k'om, 'k'om** **var** of **COMB**
comb **abbr** **1** combination; combined; combining. **2** combustion.

comb-bas-sou also **com-ba-sou** **\k'om-ba('s)u** **n** **-s** [Native name in southern Africa]: a small southern African seed-eating finch (*Hypochaeris juncea*) with white bill and red feet, the male bluish black and the female brownish, that is often kept as a cage or aviary bird.

comb-bat **\k'om-bat, 'k'om-bat** **sometimes** **'k'om-bat** or **k'um-bat** or **'k'om-bat**; **Brit** **usu** & **US** **sometimes** **'k'ombat**; **usu** **-d** & **V** **vb** **combated** or **combatted**; **com-bats** **[ME combattre, fr. (assumed) VL combattare, fr. L combat + -battere (fr. batture to beat) — more at BAT]** **vi** **1**: **STRUGGLE**, **CONTEND**, **FIGHT** (fiercely with an enemy) (nations *combated* to make one submit). **Lord Byron** (fiercely *combed* with death — **Amey Lowell**). **vi** **1**: to fight with: **BATTLE**. **2**: to struggle against or oppose **esp.** by argument (there was nobody to *combate* that royal will — **Edith Sitwell**). **work against**: strive to reduce or eliminate (malnutrition and disease) (contingent *combated* against inflation). **syn** see **CONTEST**.

comb-bat **\k'om-bat** **sometimes** **'k'om-bat**; **Brit** **usu** & **US** **sometimes** **'kombat**; **usu** **-d** & **V** **vb** **combated** or **combatted**; **com-bats** **[ME combattre, fr. (assumed) VL combattare, fr. L combat + -battere (fr. batture to beat) — more at BAT]** **vi** **1**: a fight, encounter, or contest between individuals or groups (furious *combated* of antlered stags). **2**: **CONFLICT**, **STRUGGLE**, **CONTEST** (two years of almost continuous parliamentary *combated* — **F.L. Paxson**). (such strenuous *combated* as the humanist-naturalist or the aesthetic sociological controversies — **F.B. Milliet**). **3**: actual fighting engagement of military forces as distinguished from other military duties or periods of active service without fighting.

comb-bat **\k'om-bat, 'k'om-bat** **sometimes** **'k'om-bat**; **Brit** **usu** & **US** **sometimes** **'kombat**; **usu** **-d** & **V** **vb** **combated** or **combatted**; **com-bats** **[ME combattre, fr. (assumed) VL combattare, fr. L combat + -battere (fr. batture to beat) — more at BAT]** **vi** **1**: to fight with: **BATTLE**. **2**: to struggle against or oppose **esp.** by argument (there was nobody to *combate* that royal will — **Edith Sitwell**). **work against**: strive to reduce or eliminate (malnutrition and disease) (contingent *combated* against inflation). **syn** see **CONTEST**.

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comb-back **\k'om-bak, 'k'om-bak** **adj.** of a Windsor chair: having above the arm rail an extension of the back that consists of five or more spindles and a curved top rail and resembles a comb.

comb binding **n**: mechanical binding (as of pamphlets) in which split rings of plastic or metal are passed through slots at the gutter margin.

comb-brush **\k'om-brush, 'k'om-brush** **n**: a brush that is designed for cleaning combs. **2** obs: a lady's maid.

comb duck **n**: a black and white duck (*Sarkidornis melanotos*) that is restricted to the southern hemisphere and is characterized by marked size differences between the sexes, an erect fleshy growth at the base of the male's bill, and absence of true pair formation.

combe **\k'om, 'k'om** **n** **-s** [of Celt origin]: **comb-back** chair akin to W *com* vessel, Ir *Gael* *com* vessel, Bret *komm* trough; akin to G *Kymbb* hollow of a vessel, vessel, cup, more at **HUM**. **1** **Brit**: a deep narrow valley. **2** **Brit**: a valley or basin on the flank of a hill.

combe-capelle **\k'om, 'ka, pel** **adj.** **usu** **cap** both **Cs** [fr. *Combe-Capelle*, a rock shelter near Montferand-d-Perigord, France; or to the associated culture].

combe-capelle man **n**, **usu** **cap** both **Cs**: a branch of the Brunn rock known from a skeleton found near Montferand-d-Perigord, France.

combed **\k'omd** **adj** [in sense 1, fr. *comb* + *-ed*; in other senses, fr. past part. of *comb*] **1**: **a**: having or forming a comb (a tall-combed cock) (quartz crystals). **b**: embazoned with a comb. **CRESTED**. **2**: dressed or arranged with a comb. **3**: as if dressed with a comb (a ceiling) (a oak dresser).

combed yarn **n**: yarn of any fiber spun from combed stock — compare **CARDED YARN**.

comber **\k'om(r), 'k'om(r)** **n** **-s** **1**: one that combs (as a worker or machine that combs wool or flax). **2**: a long curling wave of the sea. **3**: cotton of a staple length and grade suitable for combing.

comber board **n**: a perforated wooden frame in a loom through which the lower ends of the harness cords are passed to keep them separate.

comber leather **n**: a heavily greased cattlehide leather used in combing machines in the textile industry.

comb fern **n**: **CURLY GRASS**.

combflower **\k'om-flaw(r), 'k'om-flaw(r)** **n** **1**: **COMMON SUNFLOWER**. **2**: **PURPLE CROWNED**.

comb-foot **\k'om-foot, 'k'om-foot** **adj.** of a spider: having calamistras.

comb foundation **n**: **FOUNDATION**.

comb grain **n**: grain in quarter-sawn lumber of plainly marked narrow nearly parallel stripes of darker and lighter color — **comb-grained**.

comb honey **n**: honey kept intact in the honeycomb.

comblor **\k'om-bl(r), 'k'om-bl(r)** **n**: **COMB**.

combinable **\k'om-bin-ə-bəl, 'k'om-bin-ə-bəl** **adj.** that can be combined.

combinable **\k'om-bin-ə-bəl, 'k'om-bin-ə-bəl** **adj.** that can be combined.

combinable **\k'om-bin-ə-bəl, 'k'om-bin-ə-bəl** **adj.** that can be combined.

combinable **\k'om-bin-ə-bəl, 'k'om-bin-ə-bəl** **adj.** that can be combined.

combinable **\k'om-bin-ə-bəl, 'k'om-bin-ə-bəl** **adj.** that can be combined.

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of various shapes and is usable for rabbeting, grooving, making moldings, and other special processes.

combination plate **n**: a photoengraving plate produced by more than one process; **specif**: a photomechanical engraving in which the printing surface contains both line and halftone images.

combination pliers **n** **pl** **sing** or **pl** **in constr**: slip-joint pliers with a notched inner grip for holding and grasping round objects and cutting and bending wire.

combination plow **n**: a moldboard plow with interchangeable bottom parts suitable for different soil conditions.

combination rate **n**: a through rate formed by combining two or more rates.

combination room **n**: a common room at Cambridge University.

combination rubber **n**: sheet rubber with a linen web or webs through it used esp. to pack pipe joints.

combination sale **n**: a sale coupling two products at a price slightly higher than the price of one.

combination shot **1**: a pool shot in which a ball is pocketed by causing another object ball to strike it. **2**: an English billiards shot in which a player scores in two ways (as by cannoning and pocketing the red ball).

combination square **n**: a measuring tool consisting of a steel rule with a sliding head through an adjustable protractor head or level or a center head which can be fixed at any point on the rule by a lock bolt and being usable as an inside or outside square, a marking or depth gauge, level, miter square, plumb, and straightedge.

combination stacker **n**: a combined buck rake and hay stacker.

combination tone also **combination note** **n**: a subjective tone heard by many observers when two pure tones of widely different frequency are sounded together and thought to be due to the fact that the human ear does not in general give a linear response to sound waves — compare **AURAL HARMONY**.

combination wrench **n**: a wrench with one open end and one socket end.

com-bi-na-tive **\k'om-bi-nā-dīv, kam-'bī-nā** **adj.** [combination + *-ive*]: tending or able to combine; marked by, relating to, or resulting from combination; **specif.** of sound change: dependent on phonetic environment (the change of a short vowel into a long vowel in the ancestors of English because of the vowel's being followed by a liquid and a homorganic voiced stop).

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comb \k'úm, k'óm\ *var of COMBRE*
comb abbr 1 combination; combined; combining 2 combustion

com-bas-sou also com-ba-sou \kám'ba,(s)ú\ *n* -s [native name in southern Africa] : a small southern African seed-eating bird (*Scopscheria lunata*) with white bill and red feet, the male bluish black and the female brownish, that is often kept as a cage or aviary bird

com-bat \kám'bat, 'kím'bat *sometimes* 'kám,bat or kím'bat or 'kám'bat; *Brit usu & US sometimes* 'kúmbat; *usu* -d-+V\ *vb* combated or combatted; combated or combatted; combating or combatting; combats [MF *combattre*, fr. (assumed) VL *combattere*, fr. L *com* + -*battere* (fr. *battere* to beat) — more at bat] *vi* : STRUGGLE, CONTEND, FIGHT (~ fiercely with an enemy) (nations ~ to make one submit — Lord Byron) (~ fiercely ~ed with death — Amy Lowell) — *vt* : 1 : fight with; *BATTLE* 2 : to struggle against or oppose esp. by argument (they were nobodies ~ to the royal will — Edith Sitwell) ; work against : strive to reduce or eliminate (~ malnutrition and disease) (~ inflation) **syn** see 'CONTEST

com-bat \k'ím'bat, *sometimes* 'kám; *Brit usu & US sometimes* -bat; *usu* -d-+V\ *n* -s *often attrib* [MF fr. *combattre*, v.] 1 : a fight, encounter, or contest between individuals or groups (~ furious ~ of antlered stags) : DUEL; *specif* : an engagement between contending armed forces esp. when of lesser extent than a battle 2 : CONFLICT, STRUGGLE, CONTROVERSY (two years of almost continuous parliamentary ~ — F.L.Paxson) (~ such strenuous ~s as the humanist-naturalist or the aesthetic-socialist controversies — F.B.Miller) 3 : actual fighting engagement of military forces as distinguished from other military duties or periods of active service without fighting : ACTION **syn** see 'CONTEST

com-bat-ant \kám'bat'nt, -ad-*ant* *sometimes* 'kím,ba-; *Brit usu & US also* 'kúmbat-*ant* or -bat-*ant* or -bat'nt, *Brit sometimes* 'kám'ba- *n* -s [MF *combattant*, fr. *combattant*, adj.] : one that engages in combat

com-batant \'\ adj [MF *combattant*, fr. pres. part. of *combattre*] : contending or disposed to contend as : a) : taking part in or prepared to take part in active fighting (a ~ officer) **com-bat-lant** \'\ *heraldry* : rampant and facing each other **com-bat-lant** \'\ *heraldry* : rampant and facing each other **com-bat-lant** \'\ *heraldry* : rampant and facing each other (two lions ~)

combat boot *n* : a heavy laced leather boot esp. with a wide cuff buckled above the ankle

combat command *n* : a major tactical unit within an armored division consisting of a headquarters and headquarters company and a variable number of attached units (as of armor, infantry, and artillery)

combat fatigue also combat exhaustion *n* : a traumatic psychoneurotic reaction (as of the anxiety type) or an acute psychiatric reaction occurring during wartime combat or under conditions of extreme stress similar to that of combat — called also *fatigue syndrome*

combat intelligence *n* : military intelligence for use in a combat area gathered by combat units in the field or furnished to them from other sources

com-bat-ive \kám'bal-dív, [tív, -év *also* -ív, *Brit usu & US sometimes* 'kúmbol, *esp Brit sometimes* 'kám'bál\ *adj* : disposed to combat ; marked by belligerence : PUGNACIOUS **syn** see BELLIGERENT

combative accent *n* : a speech accent that does not coincide with metrical ictus in classical verse

com-bat-ive-ly \-ív-ē, -lív\ *adv* : in a combative manner : BELLIGERENTLY

com-bat-ive-ness \-ív-nēs, -év- *n* -es : the state or quality of being combative : PUGNACITY, BELLIGERENCE (admitting that man's nature will never lose the ~, hostility, and animosity which are so large a part of it — Norman Angell)

com-ba-tiv-i-ty \kúmba'tív-ē, *esp Brit sometimes* 'kám- *n* -es : COMBATIVENESS

combat jacket *n* : BATTLE JACKET 1

combat load *vt* : to load (a ship) so that combat supplies and materiel may be more readily unloaded (as by amphibious assault troops) than noncombat supplies and materiel

combat order *n* : *pl* : orders containing instructions for operations in a military campaign (as letters of instruction, operation orders, and administrative orders)

combat practice *n* : an individual or small-unit tactical problem that must be solved under simulated combat conditions and that requires firing live ammunition at appropriate targets

combat team *n* : a tactical nonorganic grouping of military forces capable of maintaining independent operation with its own weapons and supplies, usu. combining infantry and artillery, air and tank forces or surface craft, aircraft, and submarine; *specif* : an infantry regiment or battalion reinforced by the attachment of artillery, engineers, or medical or other troops for a particular combat mission

combat unit *n* : a military unit, organization, equipment, and training are designed to fit it to engage in combat

combat zone *n* : the forward part of a theater of military operations extending from the front line to the forward boundary of the communications zone

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